



JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman

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New Film.	1
NCC Ecumenical Work Camp.	1
Summer Activities Planned by Japan NCC.	1
Dedication of New Wing - Okayama Hospital	2
Orientation to Japanese Culture	2
Mother to Thirty-six Girls.	3
The Fellowship of Christian Missionaries	4

NEW FILM

A new film, When Peace Like a River Attendeth My Way, will be introduced abroad at the Hong Kong Art and Mass Communication Seminar this coming November. This film was planned and produced by AVACO (Audio Visual Aid Commission), an agency of the National Christian Council of Japan. The purpose is to introduce the Japanese classic dance. AVACO is also planning to produce films introducing Japanese ceremonial court music and the Noh dance in the future.

NCC ECUMENICAL WORK CAMP

An ecumenical work camp sponsored by the Japan National Christian Council begins on July 20 in Chiba Prefecture at Kanita Colony for Women where former prostitutes are cared for through a program of rehabilitation. It will continue for six weeks. Even though Tokyo is now in a period of ferment because of the coming Olympics, participants will aim at the Olympics in loving deeds and witness for Christ under the theme, Go Another Mile. They will experience unity through manual labor in leveling ground and making roads, prayer and discussion.

Thirty-seven young people will take part in this work camp: five Americans; one Malayan; one Filipino; two Tiawanese; seven Koreans and twenty-one Japanese.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY JNCC

The annual Home and Family Seminar sponsored by the Japan National Christian Council was held from July 13 through 15 with approximately 40 participants. This eastern or Kanto area conference was held at the Hoshino Onsen Hotel and stressed the necessity of establishing Christian homes, strengthening family life and seeking ways to witness to Christ in a rapidly changing society. The ideal Christian marriage and family were discussed. Lecturers were Mr. Kenji Tamura, a marriage counselor and author of Whom Are You Married To? and Mr. Yasushi Narabayashi, population specialist. A discussion was held on ways in which a truly Christian

family contributes to evangelism.

A similar seminar for the western, or Kansai area will be held from July 21 through 23.

DEDICATION OF NEW WING - OKAYAMA HOSPITAL

A group of dignitaries assembled on the roof of the new wing of Hakuaiikai Social Service hospital on May 1 for dedication ceremonies.

The oldest Protestant social work institution in Japan, the Hakuaiikai was founded by Miss Alice Adams of the American Board in 1891. In recent years it had greatly expanded its facilities for service to one of the depressed areas of the city of Okayama in southwestern Japan. Under the able leadership of Yoshio Sarai, it has become a not able landmark of Christian witness and service fully deserving the large cross that now stands above it against the Okayama sky. It is truly a modern and progressive Christian hospital. The newly completed wing increases its size from 63 to 150 beds, adds three laboratories, two new operating tables, and a fine new X-ray machine. Medical case workers and deaconesses follow up the work of the doctors and nurses.

Among the speakers at the dedication ceremony were representatives of the Governor of Okayama Prefecture, the prefectural university and the United Church of Christ in Japan. The Reverend Paul Griesy, serving as a missionary in Okayama spoke on behalf of the United Church Board for World Ministries. The UCBWM has contributed financially toward the work of the Hakuaiikai in the past and \$10,000 is being sought for this new structure.

ORIENTATION TO JAPANESE CULTURE

An orientation to Japanese culture, arranged by the Interboard Committee for Christian Work in Japan for its 20 full time language students, has just been completed. Beginning on Monday, July 6, and continuing through Saturday, July 11, two sessions were held each morning: from 9-10:25 and from 10:35 to twelve noon.

Considered were such subjects as The Japanese Family System; The Economy of Japan; Japanese Politics; Japanese Ways of Thinking; Key Concepts in the Non-Christian Religions of Japan; The Psychology of the Japanese People; Village Life in Japan; Urbanization; Marxism in Japan; Education in Japanese Life; Japanese Institutional Religion, Old and New; Contemporary Social Problems in Japan.

Most of the lecturers were Japanese, leaders in their field. They spoke in English from prepared manuscripts and gave their students much to ponder and absorb in their journey to understanding of the people with whom they are working.

All the addresses were taped; subsequent preparations of synopses will be sent to the missionaries who participated.

MOTHER TO THIRTY-SIX GIRLS

Perhaps you will wonder how I can be a mother to 36 girls when I am still Miss Tosa Nakata. The reason is that I am a house mother in the girls' dormitory at Iai School in Hakodate, Japan.

I am a graduate of Tokyo Woman's Christian College. While I was in Tokyo I lived with the family of Dr. Isamu Omura who is now moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan. I took this position just four years ago. Before that I was

on the faculty of the school here in Hakodate in the English department. Then I became ill and for ten years I was in the hospital. I thank God that that is behind me, and I now have this wonderfully satisfying work with young girls!

This dormitory is not like a huge institution where everything is official and frightening. Rather, it is like one big family where we call each other by our first names. Sometimes there is one name that is very popular. Right now this name is Keiko, so we put an O in front or omit the ko. There are four girls with this name; one we call Chibi Kei, Little Kei, as she really is small for a junior high school girl.

We share everything and try to arrange schedules and the things we are going to do together. This is our home and so we try to appreciate each other's experiences whether they are good or bad.

I realize that since I take the place of their mothers at home, I must put my own life into their lives. All life is precious and we try to establish a common feeling so that we are all free to discuss things with each other.

The girls like to go for walks in the morning and in the evening; this is the time when they open up and tell me of their hopes and dreams. Whenever I go into town or any where, for that matter, there are always several who want to go with me.

Some of the girls go home to visit their families once a month. Others live too far away for this, but when they do go home they get all mixed up about which end is home. They speak of going home to their parents, and they speak again of going home when they come back to school.

We are going to have a fine new dormitory at Iai School. Sometimes it frightens me a little. Will we be able to have the same lovely, family spirit in this big concrete building with 52 girls that we have now in a small wood structure? I know we must have a new building because we do not even have facilities for the girls to bathe; they must go over to the other school buildings for that.

At the beginning of this term in March we had 15 newcomers arrive. This is nearly a half of our total. I wondered how they would fit in as some of them seem so very young, not much more than children. In only two months they have settled down and settled in almost completely. This to me is almost miraculous.

Of course we have problems. In April 30 of the girls were ill with influenza. That was a very difficult time as I was up night and day with them. Most of them are good girls, but some are not so well disciplined and it is hard for them. This is where the older girls fit in - they help a great deal with the young ones. Always they try to settle their own affairs first before they come to me. I tell them they must be selective about their opportunities and their friends.

One girl in the dormitory is trying so hard to work out her family problems. She quit public school and lived at home for a year. But she continued to seek for something more spiritual than she could find here. Her mother brought her to the school and she passed the entrance exam. Here she is finding what she needs.

The school constitution says the girls must attend church on Sunday. Some go willingly and some are a little rebellious. I tell them that this is one way of studying Christianity. Each evening we have a short service and I take charge three days a week. Sometimes we invite the missionaries to come for dinner and to share some of their experiences with the girls. At first they were very shy but now they know this is one of their finest opportunities to get to know people

of other lands and to understand that Christianity is for everyone.

My father lives nearby and I see him quite often. I also have a niece who attended Iai School and is now at Seiwa Joshi in Tokyo, in the Religious Education Department. She and I are the only Christians in our family.

I had a good time when I was teaching English here years ago; I have a much better time now that I can work with the complete person - body, mind and spirit.

There is an old Japanese proverb which says: "Foolish parents praise their own children." I like to praise my children!

SLIDE SET ON CHURCH LIFE IN JAPAN AVAILABLE

AVACO (Audio Visual Aids Commission) of the National Christian Council, has produced a new set of color slides on church life in Japan. Entitled, The Nishikawas and Their Church, the set of 20 slides shows a Christian family (which is unusual in Japan) at worship and at work for their church.

A three-page mimeographed script in English is included with each order; a Japanese script may be had on request. The cost is ¥1100 in Japan; from any country outside Japan \$3.50, which includes postage. Orders may be sent to AVACO, 22 Midorigaoka-Machi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES

The Fellowship of Christian Missionaries held its annual conference on the campus of International Christian University in Mitaka, near Tokyo, July 14 - 16.

The conference opened on Tuesday afternoon with greetings from the ICU President, Dr. Nobushige Ukai, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Everett Kleinjans and the Vice President for Financial Affairs, the Reverend Hallam Shorrocks.

Due to illness, Mr. Michael Griffiths, associated with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, who was scheduled for the devotional periods, was unable to be present. In his place the Reverend John Hesselink, a missionary with the United Church of Christ in Japan, took over for him, reading Mr. Griffiths' manuscripts and ably interpreting for him. This is a difficult thing to do and Mr. Hesselink went over all three manuscripts with Mr. Griffiths before presenting the material based on I John.

Dr. Eugene Nida, a secretary of the American Bible Society, in Japan on business with the Japan Bible Society, held four sessions on Communication, contrasts between religions, religion communicating to the basic drives of life and the communicative distinctiveness of the Christian faith.

One of the highlights of the conference was a talk by Dr. J.M.T. Winther, Lutheran, a veteran 89-year-old missionary who came to Japan in 1898. At present he teaches at the Lutheran Bible School and Seminary in Kobe. He gave his experience during the Meiji Period of Japanese history, 1868-1912.

The Reverend Kenneth Heim, Senior Representative of the Overseas Department of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States spoke on Our Nationalities and the Christian Mission.

Several Fulbright teachers, in Japan to study its politics and educational systems, were staying at ICU as their headquarters. Some of them missed their own classes to hear Dr. Nida's talks and were greatly impressed.

This fellowship of missionaries is a very loosely knit organization. It includes all missionaries who consider this sort of thing valuable to them and many attend because it is individually helpful in their own lives. They meet people here whom they would never encounter otherwise.